

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 00658 171258Z
ACTION SY-05

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5404
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 0658

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: PHYSICAL SECURITY, AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND STAFF
QUARTERS-LUSAKA

REF: (A) LUSAKA 3424, (B) STATE 000110

1. RSO VISITED LUSAKA JAN 10-12 TO ASSESS SECURITY
SITUATION AND RECOMMEND IMPROVEMENTS. MEETINGS WERE HELD
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CANADIAN AND BRITISH HIGH COM-
MISSIONS AND ANDERSON SECURITY CONTRACT GUARD SERVICE. PRIOR
TO RSO'S ARRIVAL, POST ATTEMPTED TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH
LOCAL POLICE OFFICIALS REGARDING SECURITY SITUATION BUT WAS
UNSUCCESSFUL.

2. BASED ON ABOVE-MENTIONED MEETINGS, IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT
THE PERSONAL SECURITY SITUATION IN LUSAKA HAS DETERIORATED
NOTICEABLY IN THE PAST YEAR. ONE ATTRIBUTABLE CAUSE IS
UNEMPLOYMENT DUE TO ZAMBIA'S STAGNANT ECONOMY. NATIONAL
CRIME STATISTICS ARE NOT PUBLISHED IN ZAMBIA AND WOULD MOST
LIKELY BE MEANINGLESS IN LIGHT OF GOZ POLICE INEFFICIENCY.
IT IS KNOWN, HOWEVER, THAT THE MAJORITY OF CRIMES COM-
MITTED ARE CONVENTIONAL BURGLARIES OR BREAK-INS AND IT
WOULD APPEAR THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE BURGLARS ARE ARMED
WITH SOME TYPE OF LARGE KNIFE OR JVPANGA." ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS EXPATRIATES WHO CONFRONTED BURGLARS WERE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 NAIROB 00658 171258Z

SEVERELY INJURED. CONTRACT GUARDS ARE FREQUENTLY
ATTACKED. OUTRIGHT ARMED ROBBERIES WHILE ON THE INCRDASE
APPEAR TO CONSTITUTE A SMALL PART OF THE TOTAL CRIME
PICTURE. POLICE RESPONSE IS SLOW OR NON-EXISTANT.

3. IN ADDITION, THE LARGE NUMBER OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS
FROM VARIOUS GROUPS THAT OPERATE IN ZAMBIA POSE A

POTENTIAL THREAT AS A SOURCE OF WEAPONS AND PERSONNEL FOR CRIMINAL AS WELL AS TERRORIST ACTIVITY DIRECTED TOWARDS U.S. PERSONNEL IN ZAMBIA. ALTHOUGH THIS THREAT HAS BEEN UNREALIZED TO DATE, RSO AGREES WITH POST THAT A DETERIORATING POLITICAL SITUATION IN RHODESIA COULD POSE A SECURITY HAZARD TO U.S.G. PERSONNEL.

4. THE PERFORMANCE OF CONTRACT GUARD SERVICE WAS REVIEWED WITH THE GENERALHAAVJGXTR OF ANDERSON SECURITY, MR. ROWAN KIRKMAN, WHO DESCRIBED THE PRIMARY PROBLEM AS BEING WEEKEND, HOLIDAY AND AFTER-PAYDAY ABSENTEEISM. THE EMBASSY PRESENTLY OPERATES A DEXTEX CLOCK STATION SYSTEM AND DEDUCTS MISSED STATIONS FROM CONTRACTOR'S MONTHLY FEE. THIS HAS NOT, HOWEVER, PREVENTED SLEEPING ON THE PART OF THE GUARDS. MR. KIRKMAN EXPLAINED THAT BECAUSE OF THE LOW QUALITY OF MOST APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF RESIDENCE GUARD, HE HAD LITTLE HOPE FOR A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION ADVISED THAT THEY EMPLOYED ALL THREE OF THE EXISTING LOCAL CONTRACT GUARD SERVICES AND THAT ANDERSON SECURITY WAS CONSIDERED EQUAL TO OR BETTER IN PERFORMANCE THAN THE OTHER TWO.

5. RSO NOTICED THAT MANY GUARDS LACKED THE TRADITIONAL NIGHT-STICK OR ANY MEANS OF ALERTING OCCUPANTS OF RESIDENCES AS TO THE PRESENCE OF PROWLERS. MR. KIRKMAN STATED THAT BATONS WERE ON ORDER AND WOULD ARRIVE IN A MATTER OF WEEKS. IN LIGHT OF A SHORTAGE OF WHISTLES IN LUSAKA, RSO AGREED TO SUPPLY POCKET AIR-HORNS FROM RTC
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PAGE 03 NAIROB 00658 171258Z

STOCK. POST ALSO AGREED TO INSTALL SIREN-TYPE, BATTERY POWERED PANIC ALARMS THAT COULD BE ACTIVATED FROM THE INTERIOR OR EXTERIOR OF THE RESIDENCE. IT IS RSO'S OPINION THAT ANDERSON GUARD SERVICE, WITH THE EXCEPTIONS NOTED ABOVE, IS PERFORMING AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED. RSO DID NOT RECOMMEND CHANGING SERVICES OR THAT EMBASSY FORM THEIR OWN CONTRACT GUARD SERVICE.

6. PROPOSED SECURITY GRILLS TO BE INSTALLED WERE EXAMINED BY RSO AND FOUND TO BE INADEQUATE. THEY CONSISTED OF 8MM. ROUND DECORATIVE GRILL WORK TO BE SPOT WELDED TO CASEMENT OF WINDOW FRAMES. IT WAS REVEALED THAT THIS TYPE GRILL HAS BEEN EASILY BROKEN THROUGH BY BURGLARS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. RSO RECOMMENDED EITHER 14MM. ROUND BARS OR 1/2" SQUARE BARS TO BE GROUTED INTO MASONRY OR THROUGH BOLTED. THEZRECT COST OF THIS NEW TYPE INSTALLATION WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE THANHEREVIOUSLY ESTIMATD. IN THE EVENT OF LACK OF FUNDS, RSO DISCUSSED WITH PSO THE CONCEPT OF GRILLING

ONLY SLEEPING QUARTERS OF RESIDENCES TO CREATE A SAFE-HAVEN AREA.

7. FULL SECURITY SURVEYS OF ALL RESIDENCES WERE CONDUCTED WITH PSO. A REPORT OF PHYSICAL AND PROCEDURAL WEAKNESSES NOTED WILL BE SUBMITTED TO POST. APPROPRIATE SECURITY LOCKS AND HARDWARE WILL BE FURNISHED FROM RTC, NAIROBI.

8. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE MAJORITY OF RESIDENCES IN LUSAKA ARE U.S. GOVERNMENT-OWNED PROPERTY AND THAT THE THREAT TO PERSONAL SECURITY HAS BEEN INCREASING, RSO CONCURS WITH POST THAT PROPER GRILL WORK WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE PROTECTION PROVIDED U.S. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL IN LUSAKA.
MARSHALL

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